

t&XRUE* *U*AMU*.

fcetiee there fe nothing to be deplored in that.
As fishes
spring upon their prey in water, as wild beasts
live upon their
prey on iand,'as birds eat their prey in the sky,
so the rich are
devoured by designing persons, everywhere.
Compassion
towards all creatures, control of all the senses,
and a know-
ledge of the transitory nature of all things are the
highest bliss*
Like the teat-like 'excrescences on the neck of
a she-goat,
futile are the lives of those, who do not practise
virtues, even
with the sight of death ahead. A patricide, a
Brahmanicide, a
defiler of his preceptor's bed, a cow-killer, or a
destroyer of a
foetus in the womb may expiate his sin by
making the gift of
a plot of land, possessed of all the
commendable features*
This is my opinion, O thou bull-ensigned deity,
that the gift of
a cow is the highest of all gifts 5 the gift of a cow,
honestly
obtained or purchased, succours the whole
family of the
given No gift can vie with the gift of food
(Annam) in
point of merit; it is food that sustains the
whole world,
whether mobile or immobile. The merit, which
is acquired
by making gifts of horses, elephants, chariots,
gems, lands,
or of girls, or by performing japas, or
Vrishotsargas
(letting loose of a bull on the celebration of a
Shr&ddba cere*
mony), does tot rank one sixteenth part of that,
which is
acquired by gifting food to the poor and the
ne*dy> in as
much as food sustains strength and life, and
from food pro-
ceed sperm and comprehension.

Excavations of wells, or tanks for public
purposes and lay*

ing out of fruit-gardens for the use of the
public lead to the
regeneration of twenty one generations of the
donor, who is
also glorified for his piety in the region of
Vishnu, after
death. The sight of the holy is more
sanctifying than a
pilgrimage to a sanctuary; the merit of a
pilgrimage takes
time to bear fruit, the company of the holy
becomes fruitful
on the same day. Truthfulness, self-
control, practice of
austerities, purity, contentment, forbearance,
simplicity, know-
ledge, compassion and charity—these are the
eternal virtues*